



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Pfc. Richard Hicks, 1/9 Field Artillery Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, points out target coordinates to Spc. Joe Miller, 1/9 FA, to radio in to higher command. See story page 3A.

Review your back-to-school checklist

Winn Public Affairs

Parents readying their children for the school year tend to focus on buying new clothes, that hip new backpack and the required school supplies.

But the back-to-school to-do list should include other important tasks as well, according to physicians at Winn Army Community Hospital. Such tasks as establishing a sleep routine and shopping for healthy foods for school lunches and snacks should be a part of parents' checklists.

Establishing a normal school routine can be hard for children of any age after the long lazy days of summer. Here are some tips to help make going back to school a less stressful experience for both children and parents.

1. Get kids into the school mode early. Many children have a summer schedule that includes staying up late and sleeping in. Kids need at least a week before school starts to get back into the school schedule.

2. Develop a plan. Doing things like buying supplies and clothes, and finding out about schedules and teachers in

advance, rather than waiting until the last minute, helps reduce stress for parents and kids.

3. Talk with children about their fears and concerns. Many children who are changing schools or even classes have anxieties and fears. Discuss their concerns and do some advance problem solving and planning.

4. Get involved with your child's school. Most importantly, get to know your child's teachers.

Make a point of meeting them and discussing their expectations.

See SCHOOL ————— Page 7A

2BCT Soldiers save child

Sgt. Luis Delgadillo
2nd BCT Public Affairs

ARAB JABOUR – Tragedy is common place here on the streets of Arab Jabour. Death and destruction are common here and many times the realities of war are unavoidable.

However, when highly trained Soldiers get involved, the potential for these morbid realities are diminished greatly.

While guarding a route leading to their patrol base, two 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment Soldiers saved the life of a two-year-old girl here July 11.

Spc. Daniel A. Rojas, a combat medic, and Spc.

Rawley Miller, an armor crewmember with medical training, both of C Co., 1/30th, came to the aid of the toddler after their platoon leader, 2nd Lt. Robert A. Silva, directed them into action.

Silva, a native of Denver, initially thought that the crowd of townspeople gathering near his vehicle had complaints about the regular power outages the village experienced. It was a sight he'd seen before and knew how to handle.

But a neighborhood boy on a bicycle delivered a more urgent message to Silva; a father was requesting medical attention for his 2-year-old daughter.

With the help of an interpreter, Silva soon had an excellent understanding of what the emergency was and what assets he had available to respond.

See MEDIC ————— Page 8A

1/15 Inf help Iraqis at clinic

Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo
3rd Inf. Div. Public Affairs

COMBAT OUTPOST CLEARY, Iraq – Using a school in the city of al Wahida, Soldiers from a Fort Bragg, N.C., civil affairs battalion attached to the 3rd Infantry Division set up a one-day clinic for local residents, July 28.

Known as a cooperative medical engagement, the operation requires Coalition and Iraqi forces to come together and provide medical treatment

in prescribed areas, said Staff Sgt. Patrick R. Weston, special operations medical noncommissioned officer, Civil Affairs Team Alpha 712th, A Company, 97th Civil Affairs Battalion.

Physician assistants and unit medics out of COP Cleary diagnosed and provided medicine to those in need.

"It was open to anybody, anybody who came," said Capt. Teri Gurrola, physician assistant, C Company, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team.

See CLINIC ————— Page 8A



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Pfc. Addison Garcia searches an Iraqi vehicle at a checkpoint July 25 in Hit, Iraq. Garcia along with his unit, E Co., 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry Regiment, provided overwatch to the Iraqi Police in Hit.



**Soldiers
express them-
selves through
spiritual dance,
see Page 14A**

**Review the school
drop- off plans, other
back-to-school
information,
see page 1B**

**Jordan Youth
Gym opens,
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Marne 6 Sends Help your student, help the schools

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch
3rd Inf. Div. commanding general

Even though many of our 3rd Infantry Division Soldiers are in Iraq, their hearts will soon be climbing aboard buses and making the early morning journey from the breakfast table to classrooms. This edition of Marne 6 Sends is all about the education of our children.

School is starting soon. For the youngest child, it will be a new adventure. For the older ones, it's one day closer to graduation and adulthood. Either way it is an exciting time for Families.

I want to thank the teachers and the administration of our schools for their commitment to our children and our children's education.

Yours is no easy task. We salute you and your commitment.

I also want to thank the communities where military Family children attend school. Our youngsters and their

Families have unique lifestyles and we are blessed to be based in Coastal Georgia with such supportive neighbors.

We recognize that this year will be unique because of the deployment of so many of our children's parents. This year many of our students will have one parent at home for most of the school year.

This presents special challenges.

There are fewer helpers for homework assignments. There is one less person to carpool. There's one less coach. And, there are fewer helpers to get the kids ready. No doubt, it's tougher this year than it was last.

The education of our children is very important to all of us.

Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield will lead by example and set conditions



for a successful start to the school year.

I have asked our garrison's leadership and the staff to do everything possible to make the first days of school as pleasant as possible.

Soldiers will be allowed a later arrival at work on the first day of school so that they can escort their children to school.

Parents, motorists will notice that there is increased security on the streets especially in school zones. There will be even more emphasis on safety with increased morning traffic.

Our leaders will set conditions, allowing time for Soldiers and parents the opportunity to visit with teachers and administrators throughout the school year.

Military Families are encouraged to participate in school open house and

student/teacher orientations. Throughout the school year parents will have an opportunity to meet with their child's teacher.

We support parents as they take part in their child's education.

Our schools will need volunteer help throughout the year. Your help is needed and I encourage you to contact our school's administrators if you would like to help out.

If you have questions or need more information about education for our military Family children, you can contact our education liaison office at 767-6533 or 6071 on Stewart. Call 315-6586 for Hunter, Savannah area education liaison. You can also visit our Web site at www.stewart.army.mil where you will find the online version of Quality Time Magazine - a great resource for Families.

I want to wish every parent and student a rewarding and pleasant school year.

Rock of the Marne

CG: Soldiers are making history in Iraq

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers
Sustainment Bde. Public Affairs

QAIYARA, Iraq - Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commanding general of Multinational Division Center, Baghdad and Fort Stewart's 3rd Infantry Division, paid a visit to Forward Operating Base Q-West, July 23. He received a brief from FOB commanders and staff members and conducted a re-enlistment ceremony.

Lynch re-enlisted seven Soldiers who decided to stay Army and told of the importance of their decision to raise their right hands that day.

"You are indeed, at a point in time where

you're making history," Lynch said to a group of Soldiers from the 3rd Sustainment Brigade.

"I don't understand how people can go through life and do nothing but read history. We're making history."

Lynch said he was proud to re-enlist the Soldiers and took the time to remind brigade members why they were in Iraq.

"I can leave the Army in five years or ten years and it will be ok," Lynch said turning toward Sgt. Erica Cates, 3rd Sustainment Brigade paralegal and a re-enlistee.

"We're protecting our freedoms and our way of life. We do what we do for our kids and grand-kids."

Pfc. Gaelen Lowers

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, commander of MND-C and the 3rd Inf. Div., talks to Sgt. Erica Cates, 3rd Sustainment Bde. paralegal, during a re-enlistment ceremony at FOB Q-West.



Army announces plan to improve Family support

Special to the Frontline

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Army announced July 13, immediate steps to improve support to Army Families by authorizing and funding Family Readiness Support Assistants down to battalion level for all deploying units across the Army.

In his first act after being confirmed as Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Pete Geren ordered the immediate hiring of over 700 additional Family Readiness Support Assistants for active-duty units, more than 180 assistants for U.S. Army Reserve units, and over 125 assistants Army National Guard units. Posted regionally at first, Reserve and Army Guard assistants will gradually grow to numbers to cover each deploying battalion. Additionally, Secretary Geren and Gen. George Casey Jr., Chief of Staff of the Army, directed \$100 million to be immediately applied to Family readiness programs Army-wide.

"In our travels around the Army, Gen. Casey and I both hear the same things from our Family members: 'We handled that first deployment fine and, sure, the second deployment was a little tougher...but this third deployment is very hard,'" Secretary Geren said. "So the Chief and I want to immediately and directly impact in some positive way the cumulative effects these multiple deployments are having on our Families."

In an effort to mitigate the hardships that Soldiers and their Families face with numerous deployments, Family programs in place are being expanded, and other programs are being implemented that directly support the Army Family.

"Another thing Families tell us is, 'Look, we don't need new programs. We need you to standardize and fund the programs we have,'" Gen. Casey said.

The Army's garrison commanders now have the authority to implement expanded services, as appropriate for their communities. These programs include recreational, child and youth programs, and Army community services. Some examples include reduced fees and extended Child and Youth Services to meet the needs of the working Army Family, expanded child care to help custodial parents and guardians, and off-post child care tapped for Families who are geographically dispersed. There are more than 50 programs and activities that support Army Families scheduled for expansion or implementation in the coming months.

The assigning of Family Readiness Support Assistants down to battalion level (units whose strength may vary between 300 - 1,000 Soldiers), will now place these key personnel even closer to the Families and communities they help daily. Family Readiness Support Assistants link Army Family members with a wide level of community-support agencies, such as Army Community Service and Chaplains. While job descriptions for

most Family Readiness Support Assistants are similar, commanders have the flexibility to tailor the duties for their unique needs to best affect Family readiness. For instance, many Family Readiness Support Assistants develop and distribute unit newsletters or ensure telephone and e-mail trees are established, updated, and used so Family members receive critical information in a timely manner.

This type of support is particularly important in Army Reserve and Army National Guard units, where the Soldier and Family population is dispersed over wide areas. The Family Readiness Support Assistants become Families' links to "virtual installations" for support.

"This is not a quick fix; the Army is planning for the long-term," Gen. Casey said. "These battalion-level Family Readiness Support Assistants are as important after a deployment as they are prior to a deployment, and funding existing programs will help mitigate some of the burdens created by the current deployment cycle. We will continue to look for more ways to help - we owe this to our Families, and these steps are just a 'down payment.' There is simply no longer any question that in an all-volunteer force, Family readiness equates to readiness of the force itself."

Information about Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs can be found at www.ArmyMWR.com, which provides links to installation MWR Web sites.

A moment in Marne History: The Berlin Wall



Sasha McBrayer
Fort Stewart Museum

The iconic symbol of the Cold War's icy aggression has long been the Berlin Wall. The Berliner Mauer (German) or Berlinskaya stena (Russian) was born Aug. 13, 1961 when construction began. Twelve-foot-high concrete including electrified fencing and guard posts replaced the interim border dividing East and West Berlin, which had been composed of barbed wire. In final stages it stretched across 103 miles. An interesting and especially venomous detail of its construction was the foresight to create the actual wall far enough inside Eastern territory so as to insure, one, that it did not intrude on the West whatsoever, and, two, that anyone standing on the Western side directly beside the wall would be on Eastern soil. The fortification completely engulfed East Berlin and was manned by Soldiers given carte blanche to shoot would be escapees.

The 3rd Infantry Division operated in Cold War Germany from the late 1950s until April of 1996. When the Wall was instituted the 7th Infantry Regiment in particular regularly patrolled the famed Autoban (major high speed highway) connecting Aschaffenburg to West Berlin. The division was given free passage by the East Germans, again confirming the 'coldness' of the hostilities.

President Ronald Reagan voiced his appeal against the wall in 1987 in a speech at the Brandenburg Gate, saying,

"On Aug. 13, 1961, Berlin was cut in two by a concrete wall. The purpose of the wall: to hinder the people of socialist East Germany from fleeing into the normal world. The wall was constantly perfected and strengthened, transformed from a normal wall into a system of impassable technical hindrances of traps, elaborate signals, concrete shooting cells, watchtowers, anti-tank tetrahedrons, 'hedgehogs' and self-firing guns, which killed the fugitives without the intervention of the border guards.

But the more work, ingenuity, money and steel the communists allocated to the further development of the wall, the clearer it became: human beings can be kept in a communist society only by impenetrable obstructions, barbed wire, dogs and by shooting in the back. The wall meant that the system which the communists had built attracted no-one. It repelled." His message to Mikhail Gorbachev was clear; "Tear down this wall."

In 1989 on Nov. 9, East Germany announced that access to West Berlin, after years of harsh living, killings, and ultimately weeks of strenuous civil unrest, would be allowed. Crowds from both sides flooded onto and across the wall in a rush of jubilation. Pieces of the graffiti covered gray giant became souvenirs. Germany was formally reunified on Oct. 3, 1990. Wolfgang Becker's award winning 2003 film "Good-bye Lenin!", though darkly comical in its design, is a great illustration of the stark contrast between life before and after the Wall for East Germans.

Courtesy Photo

The Fort Stewart Museum Cold War display illustrates the icy aggression symbolized in the Berlin War.

Artillery shows their metal



Courtesy Photo

A M109 Paladin howitzer belonging to the 1/10 FA fires during a mission at Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq.

1/10 FA conducts counter-fire missions, more



Courtesy photo

Soldiers from 1/10 FA prepare to fire a round during a mission from Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq.

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – The Soldiers say their job is fairly simple. The effects, however, will leave a lasting impression on everything in their path. The platoon-sized element from 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery working out of FOB Hammer is responsible

for three main tasks, said Staff Sgt. Michael Clark, an artilleryman for 1/10 FA. The unit’s duties include conducting counter-fire missions, terrain denial missions and fire for effect missions. “We kill bad guys,” said Sgt. Ralph Harrison. “We conduct counter-fire operations. When we get mortared, we shoot back at the point of origin.” Sgt. Christopher Shores, an artilleryman for 1/10 FA, said terrain denial missions consist of firing at an area to deter insurgents from conducting enemy activity in that location. “Fire for effect missions,” he said, “are missions where we

are aiming at one specific target and we hit that target and destroy it.”

Harrison said his unit is responsible for destroying boats found along the Tigris River. The 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team suspects these boats are used to transport weapons and munitions from Iran into Baghdad. The residents told Coalition Forces they do not use the river. To effectively complete a mission, Soldiers must take

the proper steps in a short period of time. On any operation where a 155 mm round is fired from the M109 Paladin howitzer, the air and ground must be cleared of any friendly forces and unintended targets, Harrison said. When the area is cleared a call is made to the line crew on FOB Hammer. When the Paladin crew receives the mission, they assume their positions. Information that the team needs for an accurate shot pops up on a screen inside the Paladin. The crew loads a 155mm round into the tube, the gunner puts powder in to expel the round and verifies the deflection and quadrants. The chief reads the data and sets the gun on the target. “The chief overlooks everything in the operation on the ground,” said Clark, who serves as the chief for his crew. “That’s pretty important. If anything goes wrong, it all comes back to me.” Each crew spends anywhere from 12 to 24 hours on the line. They are always on their toes, prepared for any mission from the 3rd HBCT headquarters. “The hardest part of this job is the elements,” Clark said. “The heat is the worst, but everything else is pretty easy.” The job requires each crew to be stationary, but the product of their efforts can be seen through the camera of a patrolling unmanned aerial vehicle. Shores said he prefers the crew stay on FOB Hammer to get their job done. “The best part about our job is we can destroy a target without actually having to be there,” he said. The crew performs their work in the middle of a vast open area on FOB Hammer where there are no other Soldiers. Sometimes they are overlooked because they are such a small element, but Clark said 1/10 FA is a much needed element of 3rd HBCT. “They see us hit the target from the UAV, they hear the boom,” he said. “I think they are happy to have us around.”

New ‘shell’ helps 1/9 FA bring out artillery

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team artillerymen recently upgraded their targeting software and tested their big guns calibration in a series of confirmation shots. “We want to make sure everything is

working properly,” said Capt. David Underwood, B battery, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery Regiment commander. In addition to firing confirming shots with their Paladin launchers, the Soldiers also tested the new Excalibur 155mm round. The Excalibur, an artillery shell guided by

a global positioning satellite, is a new Army invention designed to eliminate collateral damage. According to Underwood, the new piece, like Air Force guided missiles, allows the Army to reduce civilian casualties by pinpointing exact targets. “The round allows us to be precise, reducing civilian casualties and damage (to

the area being fired on),” Underwood said. Such precision is also advantageous to Soldiers working on the ground. The round destroys only what is necessary, instead of causing needless destruction. By avoiding excessive damage, it is much easier to retain the hearts and minds of the people. “The Excalibur gives commanders assurance that the round will arrive where he wants it to,” said Staff Sgt. Cory Casto, 1/9 FA. This precision is also useful to troops on the ground in case they need artillery support. Pinpoint accurate fire reduces the chance of fratricide. Because his unit will also perform as a maneuver unit, in addition to firing artillery, Underwood said it was good to test and train with the new equipment, just in case his Soldiers may need its support. Although the artillery support may not be in as high demand as in the past, Casto said the system is one people depend on. New inventions like the Excalibur round merely add new strength to the artillery’s muscles. Training exercises like the ones the 1/9 performed merely stretch out the joints, ensuring they are warmed up and loose, ready to function. “We’re highly trained,” Casto said. “We train every day so when they (higher command) call we’ll be ready.”



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

B battery, 1/9 FA, calibrates their howitzers and test the Army’s new Excalibur 155mm round.

Motorcycle safety so you can enjoy the ride

Sgt. 1st Class Tami Hillis
4th BCT Public Affairs

The majority of motorists consider themselves above-average drivers when it comes to operating a vehicle. No one ever thinks they will be involved in a vehicle crash, but no one is perfect, and that's why it's called an accident.

On July 20, a Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield Soldier was killed when his motorcycle crashed into the guardrail on Veterans Parkway near the intersection of I-516 in Savannah.

Accidents happen, but our lives cannot be replaced. One way to help minimize accidents is by properly preparing drivers – to include motorcyclists – for the road. Motorcycling has become an increasingly popular sport; however, it can be risky. But through proper training and preparation accidents can be reduced, or at times prevented.

One way Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield leadership is helping minimize this risk is by offering free motorcycle safety courses for all servicemembers, Family members, and civilian employees associated with the 3rd Infantry Division. And the one person who is taking the lead on this is Hector Eide, the Army Traffic Safety Training Program lead instructor at Fort Stewart.

“At this time the Army motorcycle fatality rate is not higher than the general public,” said Eide. “The mishap rate throughout the nation is going up. However, although the rate is going up there is a proportionate amount of new motorcyclist buying motorcycles. It's a corresponding trend.”

In America there are 9 million registered motorcycles, of those more than 33,400 Soldiers ride motorcycles. Stewart-Hunter suffered five fatalities in fiscal 2006.

So as the motorcycle buying trend continues to rise, so has the awareness and training at Fort Stewart. Currently the two-day Basic RiderCourse is offered each week at Stewart. But depending on the demand, Eide, and his team of three instructors, can offer the course

three times a week. In addition to the training at Fort Stewart, the team of motorcycle instructors also provides training at Hunter one week per month.

The typical class size is six to eight students. In order to complete the course, each student must attend each session, pass a written knowledge exam and pass a riding-skill evaluation.

“I heard the driving portion of the class is good, especially for beginning riders,” said Chief Warrant Officer Peter Rogers, a special agent with CID. “The classroom portion has been interactive and it gives you things to think about, things that car drivers don't take into consideration.”

Rogers, along with two more students, attended the Basic RiderCourse May 2-3.

During those two days the students are equipped with the knowledge and basic skills to operate a motorcycle. On day one students participate in classroom lecture and scenarios and take their knowledge exam. On day two students get the hands-on training riding motorcycles.

Motorcycle operation is completely different than operating a four-wheeled vehicle; it is not intuitive, said Eide, who has 26 years of motorcycle riding experience.

“In a car you have one brake pedal, but on a motorcycle you have two controls that operate the brakes, independently often,” said Eide. “Motorcycling steering is counter-intuitive. For instance, in a car when you're travel-

ing at speeds above 10 miles-per-hour you turn the wheel right to make a right turn. On a motorcycle at speeds of 10 miles an hour or above you actually turn the handlebars left to cause the motorcycle to lean right, thus you have a right hand turn. It's completely counter-intuitive to everything we know as a car driver.”

The number one cause of motorcycle crashes is operators who do not know how to properly operate the motorcycle.

“They think if they can drive cars they can ride motorcycles,” said Eide. “Bottom line, they don't have any training or they have limited training –

do not know how to properly corner or turn the motorcycle at speed, how to properly brake or how to properly swerve to avoid an obstacle.”

Eide added that the number one cause for crashes with multiple vehicles that include a motorcycle is caused by motorists failing to recognize

a motorcyclist and failing to yield to the motorcyclist, often times turning left in front of them.

“We could save an excess of 60 percent of the motorcycles out there if no one ever made a left hand turn,” Eide said.

In order to help minimize motorcycle accidents and motorcycle fatalities, it is mandatory to successfully complete an approved rider or operator safety course prior to operation of any motorcycle, according to the Department of Defense Instruction 6055.4.

“We have training motorcycles that we use so they don't have to bring their own,” Eide said. “In fact, (Major) General (Rick) Lynch wants Soldiers to learn how to ride before they buy. That way they are better equipped to make the best decision when they buy.”

Eide said they've actually had success stories. Two Soldiers came into the class before they bought a motorcycle. They were thinking about buying a motorcycle, and they decided after successfully completing training they weren't going to buy a motorcycle because of the inherent risk that they weren't willing to accept.

“We encourage all perspective and current motorcyclist to get the training before they continue to operate or buy a motorcycle,” Eide said. “Additionally, for those who have been riding for a little while, at no cost, you can come back and refresh your skills.”

In addition to attending the course, motorcyclist also are required to wear proper personal protective equipment. This equipment includes:

- **Helmets:** Certified to meet Department of Transportation standards and properly fastened under the chin

- **Goggles and Face Shields:** Impact or shatter resistant goggles or full-face shield properly attached to the helmet.

- **Sturdy Footwear:** Leather boots or over the ankle shoes are strongly encouraged.

- **Clothing:** Long sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers, and full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for use on a motorcycle.

- **Garment Visibility:** A brightly colored upper garment during the day and a reflective upper garment during the night.

For those who want to register for a class at Fort Stewart-Hunter Army Airfield, go to home.comcast.net/~eide_h/mcsafety.html to download an application or for more information call 767-7879.

Eide's last tip to motorists is, “Watch out for motorcyclist, because not only are they men and women in the armed services, but they could be your grandparents, mother, father, daughter or son.”



Prepare your child for a fire

Special to the Frontline

Create a fire escape floor plan:

- Start by drawing a rectangle on a piece of paper. Draw one for each room of your home.

Then draw in all doors and windows. Your children can use crayons to draw in beds, tables, etc.

- In one color, draw a line that shows the fastest way out of each room. Then, in another color, draw another line that shows the second fastest way out.

- Now that you have your fire escape plan, make sure everyone in the Family studies it.

Know what to do in case of a fire:

- Pick a meeting place outside of your home where everyone can gather after they have left the burning building.

- Hold home fire drills and make them realistic by pretending some exits are blocked by smoke or fire. Hold your drills in the evening since kids can get disoriented in the dark and fires often happen at night.

- Make sure everyone knows that once you're out, stay out! Never go back inside of a burning building.

- In case of a fire, get out first, then call the fire department with a portable, cell or neighbor's phone.

Escape tips:

- Close doors behind you as you escape to slow the spread of fire and smoke.

- If you have to escape through smoke, crawl keeping your head one to two feet above the floor, where the air will be cleanest.

- Test doorknobs and spaces around closed doors with the back of your hand. If the door is warm, try another escape route. If it is cool, open it slowly. Slam the door shut if smoke pours through.

Things to think about:

- Make sure babysitters and other caregivers know escape plan and where to meet.

- Can everyone in your home – including children – unlock and open all doors and windows?

- If your windows have security bars, equip them with quick-release devices, and teach everyone in your household how to use them.

- Test your smoke alarms once a month.

- Replace alarm batteries once a year.

Help prevent wild fires

Special to the Frontline

Despite locally receiving some relief from much needed rainfall in recent months, as a whole drought conditions continue in Georgia.

The combination of hot and dry weather may lead to extreme favorable conditions for wildfires, sometimes occurring naturally – either by a lightning strike or heat from the sun. But often, wildfires are caused by human carelessness.

On July 19 at the Central Energy Plant and again July 23 at Austin Road near Isenhower Terrace, two preventable fires occurred that are believed to have been caused most likely from cigarettes. Although these fires were contained quickly due to the actions of the Fort Stewart Fire Department and the DPW Forestry Branch suppression

crew, they could have potentially spread.

The fire at the CEP started as a small grass fire, and spread through the fence, catching some combustible material used in the construction of the new cooling tower on fire.

Although most of us have no intention of causing a fire, we learn each year that wildfires, especially during drought periods are often ignited from simple actions that we take for granted such as improperly discarding a cigarette, campfires, charcoal fires, fireworks, and even burning trash. Wildfires can destroy wilderness, property, homes and lives. These unplanned, uncontrolled and unnecessarily caused fires can easily be prevented by everyone exercising awareness and caution.

Marne Voices Speak Out

How are you getting prepared for the school year?

“I'm getting ready to make some purchases for my apartment.”

Brittany Banks
Summer Hire







“Making sure the kids have all items required to start the school year.”

Spc. Eric Hawes
549th MP

“My wife is getting the kids ready for the school year.”

Errol Brown
Retired Army





“Adjusting my work schedule for studying”

Shalisa Chambers
Family member

“My children have been going to bed earlier and reading.”

Toni Johnson
Family member





“Buying school supplies and items for my apartment.”

Cyre John
Family member

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3/1 Cavalry tests water at new well in Al Nijadat

Staff Sgt. Sean Riley
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – A team of Soldiers from 3rd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, along with civil affairs personnel, visited the town of Al Nijadat to inspect a recently installed fresh water well, July 25.

The well is the product of joint efforts by the 3/1 Cavalry Soldiers and local government officials. After meeting with the town council, the CA team learned fresh water was a major concern and need of Al Nijadat residents.

“We were delivering water by truck,” said 1st Lt. Jeffrey Ritter, the civil affairs liaison and staff officer for the 3rd Squadron. “The well is a near-to-long term solution; at least until the Sabbah Nissan pumping station is completed.”

The Sabbah Nissan pumping station, another 3rd HBCT project, is in the planning phase. The proposed \$6.3 million irrigation pump station project is planned to bring water as far out as Al Nijadat, said Maj. Brad Dombay, the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team project manager.

According to Ritter, the major challenge for the installation was connecting the pump to a power source.

Local workers recently completed the installation of the well and connected it to the local power grid.

“We had to locate the well in a central location, to keep it available for the public,” Ritter said. “There are only two power lines in the city. They had to run cable from the lines to a generator, then to the pump.”

The generator is there to provide power when electricity from the town is unavailable.

“This way,” Ritter said, “they can get water any time they want.”

While others inspected the well, members of the team handed out backpacks and women’s and children’s shoes to local citizens.

The well was tested for water purity and is providing clean drinking water.

Courtesy photo

Civil Affairs Soldiers attached to the 3rd HBCT, test water drawn from a new well in Al Nijadat, Iraq, July 25.



1/15 Inf holds first sheik meeting in Salman Pak

Sgt. Natalie Rostek
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – A Task Force Marne officer met with several local sheiks July 18 to discuss quelling terror-

ism in the Salman Pak region.

Capt. Rich Thompson, commander, B Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment met the sheiks at the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade National Police headquarters building.

This was the first meeting of its kind in the area.

The unit has encountered improvised explosive devices along main routes in the vicinity of Combat Outpost Cahill, where B Company resides.

Thompson, a native of Columbus, Ga., coordinated the meeting to counter IED cells in the area.

“This was a great meeting disclosing a lot of useful information about our area,” Thompson said.

2nd BCT robots roll into combat

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

FOB KALSU, Iraq – They are small and lightweight, yet with their tiny bodies they carry a great burden.

The PackBot and Talon robots, industrial robots designed by the iRobot Company, are tactical mobile robots used by the military for search, reconnaissance and bomb-disposal missions.

"Robots give us the ability to do procedures on improvised explosive devices without risking Soldiers," said 1st Sgt. Dean Smith, 705th Ordnance Company, Explosive Ordnance Disposal unit. "They are tools we use to save lives; ours and others."

While these robots on today's battlefield might be a long way off from the Terminator, RoboCop and C3PO of science fiction films, they do provide much needed support and safety for their operators.

"They save lives every time we go down-range," Smith said.

The robots save Soldiers' lives by investigating potential improvised explosive devices. If the object in question turns out

to be a deadly IED, the robots are also used to place charges on it. This allows the EOD technician operating the robot to safely detonate the IED.

While investigating potential IEDs might be difficult, controlling the robot isn't. Sgt. James Almon, 705th, compared driving a robot to playing a video game, noting that most guys handling the robots today grew up in the video game heyday and quickly master the art.

Such mastery is important, as the robots are used every time an EOD team goes out, Almon said.

The portability of the robots allows them to be used with such frequency.

Each EOD team is assigned one of each robot model, and can transport the two in the back of a truck. The two-to-three man EOD team can also easily load and unload the robots by hand due to their size. The PackBot weighs roughly 40 pounds, while the Talon weighs about 60 pounds.

Though lightweight and portable, the robots are durable.

The robots can operate in environments ranging from urban to open desert. They can also function in any weather, day or night, and can navigate virtually any terrain.

While robots might be the new stars on today's battlefield, they have been in use for some time.

Smith said that robots have been used for military operations since the late 80s/early 90s. However, during conflicts at that time, such as the Gulf War and peacekeeping in Bosnia, there was no IED threat. Thus, robots were cast in a minor role, occasionally



Photos by Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Sgt. James Almon, 705th Ordnance Co., EOD unit, operates a PackBot robot from a computer.



The Talon and PackBot robots are equipped with camera "eyes" that allow the operator to see what the robot "sees."

called on to handle unexploded ordnance such as activated grenades that failed to explode.

However, as the face of war took a new identity in the War on Terror, the Department of Defense saw a need for more robots to do hazardous work.

"They are a remote tool that keeps us from having to go down there and do it (look at a potential IED) ourselves," Almon said.

Such dedication often comes at a price for the robots. The average life span of a robot is about six months, Almon said.

Still, the Army realizes the importance of protecting Soldiers, so it isn't hard to get

replacements, Almon said. Broken robots are merely turned into the robotic shop at Baghdad International Airport for a replacement.

But even with such a short life span, some technicians do get attached to their robotic team members.

Many have given their robots names from their favorite book or movie characters Almon said.

It is said that there is no greater love than a man to lay down his life for his friends, so a tech giving a robot a name is a small token of gratitude.

"They take real good care of us," Almon said.



PX offers contest fit for king

Special to the Frontline

The Army and Air Force Exchange Service, in conjunction with Hershey's and Reese's Elvis Peanut Butter and Banana Crème candy, is offering military shoppers an exclusive opportunity to win the "rock and roll" trip of a lifetime to 3734 Elvis Presley Blvd. in Memphis, Tenn.

From now through Aug. 25, Stewart-Hunter shoppers visiting the PX can register for the "Hershey's Elvis Sweepstakes." The contest's grand prize includes four round-trip airfare, four tickets to Graceland, hotel for four days and three nights, and \$500 spending money.

"Everyone's 'all shook up' about this sweepstakes," said General Manager, Tina

Lovitt. "It comes with everything needed for one lucky winner to treat themselves, and three friends, like royalty as they live their rock and roll dreams."

The "Hershey's Elvis Sweepstakes" prize package, valued at \$4,200 will be awarded on or about Sept. 28. No purchase is necessary to enter, and winners need not be present to win.

Governor announces Aug 2-5 tax-free for school supplies

Special to the Frontline

ATLANTA—Georgia shoppers will get an opportunity to purchase certain clothing items, schools supplies, computers and computer accessories without paying state and local sales tax during the state's tax-free holiday that began at 12:01 a.m. this morning and continues until midnight, Aug. 5.

"Teachers and parents often spend significant amounts of money in preparing for students to return to school," said Governor Sonny Perdue. "This break on sales taxes is just one small way that we can show our appreciation for all the work they do for our children."

During the sales tax holiday, clothing and footwear up to \$100 per item are exempt, but

there is no limit on how many pairs of shoes and clothing items an individual can buy. If the price of an article of clothing or pair of shoes exceeds \$100, then the item will be taxed at its full retail price. Clothing accessories, jewelry, handbags, umbrellas, eyewear, watches, watchbands and similar items are not exempt from sales tax during the tax-free period.

School supplies bought for classroom use or classroom related activities are exempt if they cost \$20 or less per item. Included in this area are pens, pencils, notebooks, paper, book bags, calculators, dictionaries, thesauruses, children's books and books listed on approved school reading lists for pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

Sales tax will be due on the purchase of any

single school supply item that exceeds \$20.

Purchases of personal computers and accessories are exempt up to \$1,500 per transaction.

Items included in the personal computer exemption category include monitors, personal computer base units, keyboards, handheld computers, monitors, printers, modems, non-recreational software and other peripheral devices.

Personal digital assistants are exempt unless they allow voice communication. Other items that are not exempt include regular cell phones, digital cameras, furniture and any systems, devices, software or peripherals designed or intended primarily for recreational use.

The sales tax exemption on all qualified

merchandise is intended only for individuals and their personal use. It does not apply to purchases made for resale, purchases by businesses, items leased or rented, or items sold at sports facilities, theme parks, restaurants, public lodging establishments and airports.

Additional information and a comprehensive list of exempt items are available at any of the Department of Revenue's regional offices or on the Internet at the Department's Web site www.dor.ga.gov.

Individuals can also get information by calling 404-417-6601 or contacting the Department of Revenue via email at taxpayer.services@dor.ga.gov.

A tax free holiday for certain energy efficient products with a sales price of \$1,500 or less will occur between Oct. 4 and Oct. 7 this year.

Winn Army Community Hospital back-to-school health briefs

Screenings offered Aug 23, 24

Children ages 4 and older entering Georgia's School system for the first time must have the Georgia Certificate of Eye, Ear and Dental Screening form and the Georgia Certificate of Immunization completed.

Winn Army Community Hospital's mass school health screening will be on a walk-in basis Thursday Aug. 23, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., and will include hearing tests, vision tests, dental exams and immunizations administration. Sports physicals will also be offered.

Tuttle Army Health Clinic's mass school health screening will be by appointment only Saturday Aug. 25, from 8 a.m. to noon, and will include hearing tests, vision tests,

dental exams and immunizations administration. Sports physicals are available by appointment only at Tuttle. To schedule an appointment at Tuttle call, 435-6633 or 1-800-652-9221.

Parents need to bring the child's immunization/medical records and military ID card. The screening could take up to two hours depending on your child's needs. Children may be seen at either screening location regardless of where they are assigned.

Prior to and after the mass screening, all services at Stewart, except eye and ear screenings are available on a walk-in basis for school health screenings. Dental screen-

ings are available Monday to Thursday from 3 to 4 p.m. and Friday from 2 to 3 p.m. on a walk-in basis at Dental Clinic 1. For more information, call 767-8513.

Immunization screenings are available on a walk-in basis Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday from 8 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. Thursday from 1- 3 p.m.

For more information, call the Allergy Immunization Clinic at 435-6633. Eye and ear services are available by appointment only. To schedule an eye or ear screening, call the appointment line, 435-6633.

Sports physicals

School sports physicals are available by

appointment during normal clinic hours Monday through Friday at Winn's Pediatrics and Family Practice clinic.

Please bring the sports physical form from the school to your appointment. To schedule a sports physical, call the appointment line, 435-6633.

EDIS sponsors Child Find event

Education and Developmental Intervention Services presents the Child Find and Public Awareness event from 10 a.m. to noon, Aug. 8 at Club Stewart, Palmetto Room. The event is free and open to the public. For more information, call 435-6370/6349.

SCHOOL

Use the meeting to talk about your child's special needs and goals. Find out about homework and projects. Teachers are more likely to contact parents when they have a good relationship. Also, get to know other parents as a way of sharing responsibilities (like car pooling) and learning about school expectations.

5. Talk to your children about what they want to accomplish and get out of their school year. Discuss their academic and social goals, but emphasize balance. After school activities should not detract from aca-

demic work or add stress to their lives.

Here are some ways parents can help keep their children healthy during the school year.

- First, an annual physical exam before the start of the school year will often make sure everything is in good shape to start. Keeping immunizations up-to-date is also very important. If your child has a medical condition such as asthma, diabetes, or even a food allergy, review what to do about it with the school nurse, including any medications that need to be administered during the school day.

- Make sure your children wash their hands before eating lunch and when they get done with activities (such as gym class) where they can pick up germs from others through close contact.

- Remind your children not to drink from the same cup as other children, or share combs or brushes, since germs like viruses and even head lice can easily spread this way. Also remind them to not put their hands in their mouth or eyes, since this is another easy way for germs to spread.

- Insure that your children get enough

sleep—at least eight hours. Also, make sure that they are fed a nutritious and balanced diet, so they get all the needed vitamins and minerals—and that includes a good breakfast.

Your children will perform better in school with adequate calories and nutrients on board.

Parents should also be aware of the eye strain that school work piled on top of the time already spent on the computer and in front of the television can cause in their children. But they can help ease these problems, by limiting time spent at the computer.

From Page 1A

2BCT Clinic gets team members ‘fit to fight’

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

ARAB JABOUR, Iraq – Gerbers, rifles and radios are just some of the tools Soldiers carry on their person into war. But of all the tools Soldiers brings to the fight, the most important one is their own body.

"You want to keep yourself as fit as possible so that if something happens you will be strong enough to take care of your battle buddy as well as yourself," said Staff Sgt. Carolyn Thompson, Forward Operating Base Kalsu aid station's non-

commissioned officer in charge.

In Army lingo, the concept is known as being 'fit to fight'. 'Fit to fight', defined by Sgt. 1st Class David Brissett, 2nd Brigade Combat Team medical operations NCOIC, means that Soldiers are physically, medically and mentally prepared to do whatever mission they are tasked to do.

Like the multitude of missions a Soldier may be tasked to do, there are multiple ways Soldiers can adhere to the 'fit to fight' principle.

The first is to maintain a healthy body by engaging in a physical fitness program, Brissett said.



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky

Spc. Amie Kotapish, FOB Kalsu aid station worker, begins marking down the symptoms of Airman 1st Class Tyler Peterson, 557 Airforce Expeditionary Red Horse Construction Team. The aid station works to keep Soldiers and others on Kalsu healthy and well so they can overcome any injury they suffer and return to duty as soon as possible.

CLINIC

Citizens of all ages showed up seeking treatment with various illnesses and injuries.

"We're able to treat pretty much everything they bring us, with the exception of dentistry issues and minor surgeries," said Weston. Weston attributes the unit's broad capabilities to comprehensive pre-deployment planning.

Iraqi police attended the CME to assist the C Company Soldiers with maintaining security. Interpreters helped bridge the language barrier by translating for the Iraqis and explaining the correct doses of medicine required. They also brought their families for medical care.

Local Iraqi medical personnel also participated in the cooperative medical engagement.

"We had a couple of nursing students who came out," Weston said. "We arranged for those (personnel) to come out through the

mayor of al Wahida.

"The people are very ready to come and be treated by Coalition Forces medical providers, and that's great," Weston said. "But at the same time we want them to believe that their own providers and government can take care of them as well."

Medical personnel examined nearly 150 people during the engagement, and each physician treated 45-50 patients.

"Almost every person who left came over and literally touched me to thank me, and I knew that they appreciated us being there," Gurrola said.

This is the fourth such operation the brigade has conducted, with an average of 150 to 200 people showing up each time to seek treatment, Weston said.

Along with the treatment and medicine, children in the community were provided with school supplies, toothbrushes and soccer balls.

Staff Sgt. Carlos J. Lazo

Right: Capt. Teri Gurrola, physician assistant, C Company, 203rd Brigade Support Battalion, checks a woman's breathing at an Iraqi school in Wahida, July 28.

MEDIC

"The interpreter said that she had been in the water for about five minutes. At that point I turned around and got on the radio and radioed for my platoon sergeant to bring the medics forward," Silva said.

The girl was found unconscious in an irrigation canal where just a week earlier a woman drowned.

Four hundred meters away, Rojas heard the most critical information.

"They just said that there's a little girl unconscious, that they think she drowned," said Rojas. "That's what I was hearing as I was gathering up my equipment inside the truck when the medic call came in."

"We were in the platoon sergeant's truck, and we got the call so we drove down there real quick," said Miller. "Rojas initially

jumped out to look at the kid and I went around back and grabbed his medic bag out."

As the concerned group of locals approached, Silva noticed the toddler's clothes were still soaking wet. She was limp, unresponsive and beginning to turn blue in her father's arms. Miller and Rojas also noticed a bump on her head, which to them indicated a reason for why she might have been in the water for so long.

The Soldiers arrived at the scene and immediately took charge of the life threatening situation.

"I took the little girl from the father and turned her over to the medic... my focus went back to pulling security," said Silva.

Rojas positioned the child on the hood of the Humvee and began to evaluate the young victim.



Sgt. Luis Delgadillo

Spc. Daniel A. Rojas, combat medic, and Spc. Rawley Miller, an armor crewmember with medical training, both of C Co. 1/30th Inf. rescued an 2-year-old Iraqi girl in Arab Jabour, July 11.



"If you feel cotton mouth, you are already dehydrating," he said.

To beat dehydration, nothing tops water. Although there are other drinks available on base, none should be a substitute for water.

"Once in a while you can reward yourself (with a soda or other beverage), but it should not be a substitute for drinking water," Brissett said. "The same (thing applies) with Gatorade. It is a good supplement to water that helps restore sodium and potassium levels, but Soldiers should drink it with water."

Soldiers should also use water for personal hygiene.

"One of the great things we have in the modern Army now is contracted laundry and bath," Brissett said.

At Kalsu, Soldiers can turn in laundry daily, ensuring they always have clean uniforms.

Clean uniforms can help prevent the spread of disease. Due to temperatures, Soldiers sweat a lot, creating environments for harmful bacteria to grow, especially in the feet, Thompson said.

"Soldiers need to take care of their feet," she said, noting that foot infections were one of the major treatments at the aid station.

She said Soldiers should use foot powder and change socks at least twice a day, three times if they sweat a lot.

Soldiers should also be sure to dry their feet completely after showering and sleep without socks to give their feet a chance to air out, Thompson added.

While sleeping, Soldiers should also sleep head to toe, not head to head. This reduces the spread of germs by keeping the adjacent Soldier from breathing directly on the person next to him, she said.

While Soldiers may have once been an Army of one, they don't have to go solo to remain Army strong and be all they can be.

Medical facilities such as the aid station and the brigade medical operation section help Soldiers take care of health issues through immunizations, medical screenings, routine doctor care, first aid and sick call hours.

In addition to basic care, the clinic can also take X-rays, electrocardiograms, which check the muscles of the heart, and have a physical therapy ward to help Soldiers rehab injuries and get them back to duty.

The clinic also conducts patient education, providing Soldiers tips and valuable information they can use to keep them 'fit to fight'.

From Page 1A

He then sat the toddler up on the hood of the Humvee and helped her cough up the remaining water in her lungs.

Rojas said he was finally able to stir the child awake by patting her on the back, rubbing her sternum and warming her back up.

From the time the medics took charge of the situation to the time the child had reawakened, ten anxious minutes had passed.

"The next thing I know she's crying," said Miller

"If we hadn't got there she could have been lost, but we got there and we were able to reverse the situation, which is what I was happy about," said Rojas.

Miller, a husband and father himself, said that seeing the little girl awake, alive and crying brought relief.

As the toddler reawakened, she began to notice the group of seemingly terrifying men standing around her wearing various types of strange looking attire.

Once she came to her senses and realized that her father was among the men she instinctively reached out to him for comfort.

Rojas said the father was smiling and thanking them for having saved his daughter, but the young girl was not out of danger yet.

Through the interpreter, Rojas relayed to the girl's father the importance of the girl receiving follow-up care.

"We made sure our interpreter told him (the father) that she needs to go to a hospital as soon as possible to get X-rays done of her chest," said Rojas.

Rojas said he knew it was important for his patient to seek additional treatment because drowning victims can often suffer from other complications like permanent brain damage, waterborne illnesses, pneumonia or other respiratory illnesses.

Silva said that he and Rojas still felt weary of allowing the family to leave without having a plan to provide follow up care; so together they came up with a solution.

With the support of their chain of command, Silva and Rojas provided the family with green chemical lights that would illuminate a path leading to their home at night so the oncoming guard duty shift could pay them a visit.

Soldiers overwatch IP checkpoint

Spc. Ricardo Branch
1st BCT Public Affairs

HIT, Iraq – The sounds of Brad Paisley carry through the air as Staff Sgt. Michael Musser and his team of two Bradleys scan the roads around checkpoint Strawberry-Bronze. They move their turrets and occasionally raise a flag signaling Iraqi vehicles to stop. Often their mission is to work with the local security forces. Today is different; the Iraqi police are taking the lead.

The team made up of Soldiers from E Company, 2nd Battalion, 7th Infantry provided overwatch for the police force July 25 at Hit.

“We’re at the point where we’re just watching the Iraqi police to ensure they are doing the right procedures,” Musser said. “We used to have to go out there with them and make sure they searched vehicles the right way.”

He said they spend long periods of time watching, waiting and remaining alert in case the Iraqi Police need help from his team.

Unlike other maneuver units consisting of combat arms Soldiers, his team is comprised of combat engineers and various other combat support specialties.

Musser, said that their current tasks of Infantry missions are a direct follow-up of what his company was conducting in the last deployment.

“The Army’s changing. A Soldier’s job specialty is really secondary these days,” he said. “Last time we were in Iraq, we did a lot of security and force protection during the Iraqi elections, so we’re experienced in this type of work and have trained on it last year as well.”

During the mission, the Soldiers instructed the Iraqi police on procedures to ensure all vehicles were being thoroughly searched. After the instruction, the Soldiers moved to their Bradleys where they remained vigilant for any problems.

“This is a step in the right direction of giving more responsibility to the local security force,” Musser said. “They are

thoroughly searching the vehicles and following what we taught them.”

Although the Iraqi police are doing the majority of the work these days at the checkpoint, the Soldiers are now dealing with other issues, such as ensuring the relief for the IPs arrive on time and making small improvements to the checkpoints.

“Right now this is only a temporary mission for us,” said Spc. Jeremy Davis, a combat engineer with 2/7 Inf. “We just handed our old area to another company but that doesn’t stop us from helping the IPs out in this area.”

Davis said that they are moving newly constructed guard shacks to the various checkpoints and keeping in touch with the IPs higher command to better facilitate the personnel running the checkpoints.

“On average we see about 100 vehicles come through the area,” Davis said. “There’s always talk of a suspected push by insurgents to re-enter Hit, so we have to constantly stay on guard.”

The city of Hit was cleared by coalition operations earlier this year. It has seen little to no violence from insurgents thanks to the efforts of joint security forces manning and



Spc. Ricardo Branch

Pfc. Addison Garcia, 2/7 Inf., watches an Iraqi vehicle at a checkpoint July 25 in Hit, Iraq.

searching the nearby areas. The checkpoints are just one of the keys to that victory.

“We’re doing good work here,” Davis said. “These (checkpoints) are ensuring our success to making sure insurgents don’t traffic weapons back in the city. With us and the IPs here, no vehicles go unchecked, so hopefully they can make this a better place so we can go home.”

Partners disrupt accelerant flow in Iraq



Courtesy photo

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Darnell, C 1/15 Inf. platoon sergeant, discusses traffic control point operations with a National Policemen during a break at a traffic control point along the Al Kut Highway southeast of Baghdad.

Maj. Joe Sowers
3rd HBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAMMER, Iraq – Soldiers of C Company, 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment have new partners in their efforts to stop accelerant flow into Baghdad.

The 2nd Battalion Wassit Emergency Response Force is now working alongside its Coalition counterparts from the “Dragon Battalion” to establish traffic control points to disrupt the flow of bomb-making material along major thoroughfares southeast of Baghdad.

The 1/15th Inf., 2nd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, deployed to Iraq in March 2007 and immediately established combat outposts among the communities southeast of Baghdad. As a part of the surge, the Soldiers of 1/15th Inf. assumed the mission of hindering the flow of insurgents and bomb-making material as they moved north.

Capt. John Horning, commander, C Company, said when the 1/15th Inf. began conducting missions in early April, traffic control points along the Al Kut Highway were nothing more than “traffic observation” points.

The 3rd platoon of C Company has joined with the ERF to along the Al Kut Highway, near Wahida. The Al Kut highway is lined with businesses in many places and contains key commercial zones in the Fort Benning, Ga. based Soldiers’ area of operations.

The road has also seen the highest number of roadside bombs in the battalion’s area of operations.

The ERF, also known as the “Lions of Wassit,” bring experienced leaders and soldiers onto the Coalition team. Horning said many of the Lions

are former Iraqi army paratroopers. Soldiers of the unit maintain higher standards of discipline than many other ISF units and are very well trained, he said.

“They don’t lack motivation, and they don’t lack individual skills,” Horning said. “They are ... fearless.”

Sgt. 1st Class Scott Darnell, platoon sergeant, C Company, concurs.

“They weren’t the regular soldiers under Saddam’s regime,” said Darnell. “The tactics they use are a little more advanced than what we see with the regular Iraqi security forces.”

Horning thinks the success of the Lions can easily be seen.

“The best evidence of their success is how quiet it has been along the Al Kut Highway in our area,” Horning said. “All the EFPs (explosively formed penetrators) that we have seen have been outside of their area of operations.”

Besides hindering terrorist activity, the combined traffic control operations provide an opportunity for 1/15th Inf. Soldiers and ERF personnel to work together and learn from each other. The C Company initiative is focused on improving the efficiency and effectiveness of traffic control points conducted by the ERF.

Horning believes that while the ERF soldiers possess individual skills above their ISF peers, he also sees where the unit can improve as a whole. Horning said battalion-level planning and “conditions setting” would be areas in which he would like to see the Lions improve.

Even with some deficiencies, Horning said he thinks the ERF help his company greatly.

“Their ability to gather human intelligence is way beyond ours,” said Horning. “We rely on technology and they bring the human element. They complete the puzzle.”

IED class prepares 2BCT Soldiers for today’s battlefield

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

They comprise only one - two percent of all attacks on Coalition Forces, yet manage to account for most deaths, said Sgt. 1st Class Dwayne Conkel, Task Force Troy, 1st Army.

“Improvised explosive devices are the number one killer in theater. This is what is killing Soldiers,” he added, pointing to a desert mockup containing replica IEDs.

In order to help mitigate risks associated with IEDs, Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division were given a block of instruction at Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

During the class, Soldiers learned about the different IED designs and components, detonation methods, and typical emplacement sites.

Learning was facilitated by slides featuring different photos of the IEDs as well as visual models displayed at the front of the classroom tent. Soldiers got glimpses of all types of IEDs – command wire, command initiated, victim operated, timed – and common items, such as cell phones, pagers and garage door openers, used to trigger the devices.

“It was good information,” said 1st Sgt. David Taylor, B Co., 26th BSB. “It gave us the latest tactics, techniques and procedures and ways they (insurgents) are setting up IEDs.”

While at times the class, which also showed videos of IED strikes on Soldiers, made some

shudder, the shock value was designed to get Soldiers into the mindset that this is what they may experience in theater.

“No one likes to see “Joes” get hurt, but this is what is going on in theater and rather than becoming a statistic it is important to get in a focused mindset,” Conkel said of the slightly offensive video. “If you take it in, absorb it, internalize it, chances are it will help you and your buddy.”

Internalizing such information is important, because IEDs can take many forms. According to the Joint Counter Radio Controlled IED Electronic Warfare Handbook, an IED can be any device placed or fabricated in an improvised manner incorporating destructive, lethal, noxious, pyrotechnic, or incendiary chemicals and is designed to destroy, incapacitate, harass or distract.

Like this open definition, IEDs are limited only by the imagination of those using them, Conkel said. Insurgents have been known to hide IEDs in discarded meal ready to eat bags, guardrails, concrete in sidewalks and roads, and even animal carcasses.

Anything and everything can be booby-trapped, states the Dec. ‘05 Call Newsletter: Counter IED operations.

Because of the relative cheapness and availability of materials needed to construct IEDs, they are a favored tactic of insurgents, finding their way throughout all of Iraq, according to the Call Newsletter.

Because of this, IEDs can severely limit

operations. However, in addition to IED awareness classes, the 2nd BCT has several more concrete assets available to help counter the threat.

Maj. John Pope, 2nd BCT engineer, said his section has a multitude of equipment to find and locate IEDs. While the explosive ordinance disposal teams still detonate located IEDs, the engineers are often the eyes of EOD, finding IEDs while engaging in route clearance missions, Pope said.

To facilitate route clearance, Pope said the engineers have a variety of special vehicles and equipment.

Two armored-wheeled vehicles commonly used are the Buffalo and RG31. The Buffalo has a claw-like device that can check a suspicious item and determines if it is just trash or and IED, while the RG31 is a recon vehicle that tries to find visually what the Buffalo might need to interrogate, Pope said.

Another vehicle is the Husky, which looks like a construction grader, that is equipped with ground penetrating radar that can detect buried IEDs, Pope said

Individual engineers are also assigned personal equipment like mine detectors and robots such as the Multi Function Agile Remote-Controlled Robot, or MARCBOT, Pope said.

Although such assets can help limit IED strikes, Conkel said such measures shouldn’t be perceived as making things perfectly safe. “There’s no such thing as a clear route,” he

said. Thus he said Soldiers must always remain vigilant, as anyone of them may encounter an IED.

Though the heat and other conditions may wear on Soldiers’ minds, Conkel said such miseries shouldn’t remove their thoughts from the number one threat out there.

“Soldiers can’t become complacent,” Conkel said. “They need to maintain vigilance and keep their eyes open.”

Conkel said command can help accomplish this by getting out with the troop and motivating them.

He also added that command can help their troops by learning the TTPs for dealing with IEDs, things to look for (something that looks different, a freshly painted curb, wires sticking out) when trying to locate IEDs, as well as actions on discovery. Once unit subject matter experts are in place, he recommends having quarterly training.

“Every Army unit has to rotate in here, so they need to be on the mindset how detrimental it (IEDs) is to troops,” he said.

A recommended place to start for more information is the Multinational Corps Iraq Command Web site, Conkel said.

Soldiers can visit the site at: <http://spsan.iraq.centcom.smil.mil/default.aspx>.

Here Soldiers can also find a link on the right hand side of the page to CJTF Troy’s Web site, which contains more information on countering IEDs.

Enlisted spouses club hosts welcome dinner



Image by Nondice Powell

3rd Inf. Div. Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrew's wife, Frankie Andrews is welcomed by the 3rd Inf. Div., Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield Enlisted Spouses' Club at Club Stewart, July 27.

Kara Casto
Frontline Correspondent

The Fort Stewart Enlisted Spouses Club hosted a welcome dinner for Frankie Andrews, wife of division Command Sgt. Maj. Jesse Andrews, at Club Stewart, July 27.

Maj. Gen. Rick Lynch, 3rd Infantry Division, commanding general and the division command sergeant major sent a video to the Enlisted Spouses' Club, where Andrews had a special message to his wife Frankie.

Andrews said he married his best friend when he married his wife Frankie Feb. 20, and that he was grateful for her support.

The ESC President, Dawn McCraw, arranged for the surprise recording as part of the evening's activities.

"The ESC wanted to officially welcome Mrs. Andrews to the division," said McCraw. "These dinners are a time-honored tradition throughout the Army. The best part of the evening was seeing her reaction as she realized how happy we are to have her here."

In the video message, Lynch and Andrews spoke of the importance of "battle buddies" and expressed their apprecia-

tion for the personal support from their wives. Battle buddies are important for spouses, too, said Sarah Lynch, adding that she looks forward to working with hers.

"It is good to have someone who volunteers with you, someone you can share with, and talk to," Lynch said.

The third of seven children, Andrews is a graduate of the South Eastern Beauty School in Columbus, Ga. She is the operating manager and owner of Frankie's Hair Design in Columbus, and plans to earn her cosmetology instructor license. Andrews is not only a new Army wife, but a military mother as well. Her daughter, Tiffany Strickland, currently serves in Germany. Her son, Kent McCarthy, is enlisting in the Navy.

"I am very proud of them both," Andrews said.

Andrews addressed the dinner guests, stating that she looks forward to being part of the 3rd Inf. Div., and thanked the ESC for welcoming her with the dinner.

"I am excited about supporting the 3rd Infantry Division in whatever comes their way," Andrews said. "I am enjoying the camaraderie, and the friendships I am establishing. I look forward to meeting more people, becoming part of the 3ID Family, and being a part of its traditions."

Veterans donate phone cards

ChaNae Bradley
Frontline contributor

A program sponsored by various Veterans' organizations are providing more than 20,000 phone cards to help ease the burden on deployed Soldiers and their Family members.

The cards were provided by the Georgia Dept. of Veterans of Foreign Wars. VFW adjutant and quartermaster for the VFW Dept of Ga., Albert Spears said, "We are issuing 4,000 domestic cards, and the remaining card will be issued to the deployed Soldiers."

He said each card has 30 minutes, and are active for one year after release.

Nationally, the VFW has provided at least 8.5 million cards through a program called Operation Uplink.

Operation Uplink is a program that keeps military personnel and hospitalized veterans in touch with their

Families and loved ones by providing them with a free phone card.

Fort Stewart is a first time recipient of Operation Uplink, and many Family members of deployed Soldiers were in attendance at the Family Readiness Center July 25 to receive their free card.

June Wheeler, the wife of a deployed Soldier said she is thankful because the phone card will allow Soldiers the opportunity to be able to call more frequently.

Alison Hentel said she received an e-mail from her Family Readiness Group in reference to the free phone cards.

She said she was happy the cost of talking to her deployed Soldier has been supplemented through the card.

For more information on the phone cards, contact Bess Stone, mobilization and deployment specialist, at 767-3017.



ChaNae Bradley

Left to right Sarah Lynch, 3rd Inf. Div. FRG leader and Lt. Col. Paul B. Gale, 3rd Inf. Div. rear-detachment commander thank Dean Smith, 2007-2008 VFW commander for Georgia for donating more than 20,000 minutes of phone cards to the Marne Division's Soldiers and Families.

Forklift operations man-handled by female for MILES

Jennifer Scales
Public Affairs Specialist

Working in the Multiple Integrated Laser Engagement Systems warehouse, Deborah Phillips, materials handler and forklift operator, is more than knowledgeable in troubleshooting and operating a forklift. She also handles material that can be as heavy as 200 pounds, but uses the forklift to lift and place it from one section to another in a safe and orderly fashion. As the only female employee in the warehouse section, these are just some of her daily tasks she accomplishes.

"It doesn't bother me because I have been the only female in a lot of jobs I have had in my life", said Phillips. "Here they just look upon me as just one of the guys."

Sometimes new male employees come in and question her abilities, but their doubts are quickly dispelled after they see her in action.

Phillips can also lay claim to the title as the armorer for the AT-4 sub cal.

Working in temporary positions since 1996 in the warehouse field, Phillips was later able to get permanently hired in 1999 and has been here ever since.

"I have worked in other sections also, usually filling in when someone is out," said Phillips.

This strenuous, and at times physically demanding job, is one that Phillips says she enjoys.

"I like the job because it is physical and it keeps me out of an office. And I like helping Soldiers, because I used to be one."

Before Fort Stewart became the 3rd Inf. Div., Phillips was assigned here with the 24th Infantry Division. "I was a 71B clerk-typist. I ended up at AG publications and liked it very much," Phillips said.

In her spare time, Phillips finds comfort in reading e-books in the science fiction genre, or anything in "The Magnificent Seven" western series. She also enjoys making shelves from her wood-working interests.

Her advice to other females who may be pondering a job in the warehouse field is to 'go for it.'

Phillips added her perspective as to how far women have come to having equality in warehousing and forklift operations.

"I think the military has had a lot to do with women being in such positions, like this one," Phillips said. "Because the men had to go off to war, women had to stay behind and fill in the gap. It's like being that poster icon of WW II, Rosie the Riveter."

Join Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield as it hosts Women's Equality Day observance, 1:30 - 3 p.m., Aug. 22 at Club Stewart.



ChaNae Bradley

Deborah Philips operates a forklift in the MILES warehouse.



Maj. Monte G. Richards
Chief, Legal Assistance Office

USERRA is a very important issue for anyone serving in a reserve component. This is especially true in recent years with the deployment of hundreds of thousands of National Guard and reserve members. USERRA was enacted Oct. 13, 1994. It is a comprehensive revision of the federal law of veterans' employment rights. It applies to virtually all employers and protects the rights of those who serve with the regular components, reserve components, and National Guard when in the federal service. Its purpose is to encourage non-career military service by making it easier for participants to enter and remain in the civilian work force while serving in the Armed Forces. USERRA does this by penalizing employers who discriminate or deny benefits to uniformed service members. In part one, we discussed the five-part test to determine whether the protections of USERRA are available to a particular Soldier. We will now discuss the protections available under USERRA.

What protections must an employer give under USERRA?
Soldiers are entitled to protections both while they are gone and when they return.

What protections are soldiers entitled to while they are serving?
Health insurance for the Soldier and Family members. Upon request, Soldiers can maintain health coverage, subject to the normal employee's contribution, for up to 30 days of service. Family members of Guard and Reserve members called to active duty for more than 30 days are eligible for TRICARE benefits the day their military sponsor mobilizes. TRICARE does not cover Family members for tours of 30 days or less, so it makes sense for most Soldiers with Family members to continue private Family member coverage for tours of up to 30 days. Soldiers can maintain civilian employer-sponsored health coverage for up to 18 months, at their request, but employers can charge up to 102 percent of the full premium under the plan, including any employer contribution. It should be noted, that if Soldiers have orders to active duty for more than 30 days, their Families are covered under the TRICARE Extra or Standard programs from the day of activation. Other benefits. USERRA requires an employer to treat an employee who serves in the armed forces like any other employee of similar seniority and status who is on furlough or leave of absence. For example, if the employer offers employees on furlough or leave of absence holiday bonuses, low cost life insurance or loans, etc., a serving Soldier-employee is also entitled to them. If the employer has more than one kind of furlough or leave of absence, the Soldier is entitled to the most generous treatment for comparable periods of time.

What protections are Soldiers entitled to upon their return from active duty service?

Uniformed services employment, reemployment rights act

Prompt reinstatement. Soldiers on orders and away from their civilian job for 30 days or less must "report" back to work at the start of the first regular shift starting at least eight hours after safe travel time from their release from duty. These Soldiers are entitled to immediate reemployment. All other covered soldiers must be reemployed promptly. USERRA does not define "prompt," but the clear intent of the law is reemployment within days, not weeks or months.

Seniority. Soldiers away from their civilian employment for 90 days or less are entitled to the exact job they left. If service was 91 days or more, the employer has the option of giving the returning Soldier a position of like seniority, status, and pay. For all absences, USERRA incorporates the "escalator principle." Returning employees are entitled to the same seniority they would have had if they had never left the employer for military service. If their pre-service peers were promoted or received raises in their absence, the returning Soldier is entitled to the same raise or promotion. Conversely, if their pre-service peers took pay cuts, or their jobs were eliminated, the returning Soldier gets the same adverse treatment.

Status. Returning soldiers are entitled to the same status they would have attained if continuously employed. This includes job title, location, the opportunity to work during the day versus at night, and the opportunity to work in departments where there are better opportunities to earn commissions.

Training and other accommodations. An employer must make "reasonable efforts" to train a Soldier on new equipment or techniques, refresh skills not used during service, and accommodate a service-connected disability, or to offer the soldier alternate employment. There is some overlap between USERRA and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 U.S.C. §12111, however, the ADA exempts employers with fewer than fifteen employees, while USERRA contains no such exception.

Special protection against discharge other than for cause. If a returning Soldier is fired within a protected period, the employer has the burden of proving that the discharge was for cause, and not in retaliation for USERRA-protected service. The protected period is one year for Soldiers gone for 181 days or more, and 180 days for soldiers gone for 31 to 180 days. Soldiers gone for 30 days or less are protected only by the general anti-discrimination clause of USERRA.

Immediate reinstatement of health benefits. The employer or employer's health insurer can impose no waiting period and no exclusion of pre-existing conditions, other than for VA-determined, service-connected conditions. A returning Soldier is entitled to reinstatement of health coverage whether or not he/she elected to pay for health coverage through the employer during his/her absence.

Pension benefits. For purposes of pension benefits, employers must count any period of service protected under USERRA as if it were service with the employer. This applies both to benefit eligibility (vesting) and to benefit computations. If the pension plan does not require employee contributions, the Soldier gets credit as if he or she had never left work. If the plan uses employee contributions or deferrals,

the returning soldier gets up to three times the period of absence (up to a maximum of five years) to make up any missed contributions.

Antidiscrimination provision. USERRA prohibits discrimination based on military service or obligations. If military service was a factor in an employer's adverse action, the employer must prove that the adverse action would have been taken in the absence of the employee's military service or status. USERRA also prohibits retaliatory action against witnesses and those who take action to enforce USERRA protections.

Other benefits. As discussed above, USERRA requires an employer to treat an employee who serves in the armed forces like any other employee of similar seniority and status who is on furlough or leave of absence. Any other benefits available to other employees returning from a similar period of absence are due to returning Soldiers, as well.

Other protections. USERRA supersedes any state law, local law, or ordinance, contract, agreement, policy, plan, practice, or other matter that reduces, limits, or eliminates any rights under USERRA or establishes additional prerequisites to the exercise of such rights. However, USERRA allows state laws or constitutions, collective bargaining agreements, private contracts, etc., to provide extra protections and benefits. As such, returning soldiers are still entitled to any other benefits that they enjoy from sources other than USERRA.

Some employers give employees paid military leave. For example, federal employees have a right to fifteen days of paid military leave each fiscal year. Such rights are independent of USERRA. Some employers prefer for employees to use vacation days or paid leave to perform military training. Employees have the right to use "vacation, annual, or similar leave with pay" before beginning military service, but the decision is the employee's. The employer cannot require the employee to do so.

Waiver of rights. An employer may ask a departing Soldier to sign a statement saying the Soldier does not intend to return to the civilian job, or a more limited waiver of the Soldier's right to seniority and/or non-seniority benefits. Despite such a waiver, a Soldier never gives up his or her rights to reemployment; nor the right to be treated as continuously employed for seniority purposes upon return to the job. A statement of non-return, however, does waive non-seniority benefits. To be effective, a waiver must be made with full knowledge of the rights the Soldier is giving up, and the employer bears the burden of proof on this issue. Signing such a waiver will almost never be in a Soldier's best interest.

What should you do if you feel that one of your USERRA rights has been violated?
The Soldier should first contact the National Committee for Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, 1-800-336-4590. If an ESGR Ombudsman cannot resolve the matter, the soldier may file a complaint with the Veterans' Employment and Training Service (VETS), U.S. Department of Labor, 1-800-442-2838. You may also contact your local Legal Assistance Office for advice and information before taking any action.



Special to the Frontline

Mr. Christopher S. McCormick has been employed as a Conservation Officer with the Directorate of Emergency Services, Conservation Law Enforcement Branch on Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield for the past three years. Commonly referred to as "game wardens", officers of the CLE can be seen throughout the recreational and training areas of Stewart-Hunter enforcing environmental and natural resource laws as well as fish and game laws. McCormick graduated from Radford High School in Radford, Virginia and received a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice and Sociology from Concord University in West Virginia. McCormick then served twelve years in the Army Reserve where he attained the rank of Staff Sergeant. McCormick served active duty in



Christopher McCormick

Operation Iraqi Freedom as a Military Police on Stewart. After finishing college, he began his civilian law enforcement career as a patrol officer for the Virginia Tech Campus Police Department. He became a detective for the Radford Police Department. While working as a detective, McCormick served as a firearms and defensive tactics instructor at the Virginia Department of Criminal Justice, the state police academy in Virginia. He later joined the DES as a police officer at Hunter and held the positions of patrol supervisor and training officer before assuming his current duties as an officer in the CLE branch. The CLE branch can be reached Monday through Friday, 6 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 767-7577. After hours, they can be contacted by calling the Stewart police desk at 767-4895 or the Hunter police desk at 315-6133.

Soldier returns home, assumes command

Pat Young
Frontline Staff

Major Reginald G. A. Neal, a native of Hinesville, Ga. returned home Friday to assume command of the 1st Battalion, 118th Field Artillery. The native of Hinesville, was born to Master Sgt. Richard G. Neal, retired, and the former Juanita Baker of Ludowici. He followed in his fathers footsteps and joined the military. His father was stationed at Fort Stewart from 1967 to 1969 with the Aviation Training Brigade and is now the Reverend Dr. Richard Neal at Elm Historical Baptist church in Ludowici.

Selected for promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. Neal returned to Hinesville with more than 20 years of service to take command of the unit; however, his return wasn't so much of a return to duty,



Courtesy Photo

Maj. Reginald Neal

but a coming home. Neal is married to Kim Neal, and has a daughter, Alexandria and a son David.

Legal Notices

Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of Sgt. Thomas McGee , 546 Military Police Company, 385th Military Police Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact 2nd Lt. Justin Stevens, 385th MP Battalion, Fort Stewart Ga. 31314 at 767-9068.	Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of Pfc. LeRon A. Wilson , D Company, 26th Forward Support Battalion, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. Kyle Hemminger, 3/7 Cav. rear detachment commander, Fort Stewart Ga. 31314 at 767-7328.
Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of Sgt. Gene L. Lamie , A Troop, 3rd Battalion, 7th Cavalry, Fort Stewart, Ga. 31314, contact Capt. Kyle Hemminger, 3/7 Cav. rear detachment commander, Fort Stewart Ga. 31314 at 767-7328.	Anyone having claims against, or who is indebted to the estate of Spc. Raymond Christian , 24th Ordnance Company, Hunter AAF, Ga. 31409, contact Warrant Officer Nicholas Bartling, 24th Ordnance Co., Hunter Army Airfield, Ga. 31409 at 315-6112.



Private Daniel M. Kirkley, 3rd Sustainment Brigade, convicted by summary court-martial; possession of marijuana, use of marijuana, and breaking restriction; forfeiture of \$867 and confinement for 30 days.

Private Benjamin M. Miller, 1st Battalion, 9th Field Artillery, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, convicted by special court-martial; desertion with the intent to avoid hazardous duty, missing movement of the division June rotation flight; reduced to E1, confinement for 11 months, bad Conduct discharge.



Georgia HOPE Grant offered

The HOPE Grant is money given by the state of Georgia to students with financial need to attend vocational/trade schools. The grant covers certificate and diploma programs. Any Soldier or Family member of a Soldier who is stationed in Georgia may be eligible. If you are interested in attending a Georgia vocational or trade school, inquire with your school's financial advisor or visit the Army Education Center to speak with a counselor.

Tuition assistance deadline announced

All course enrollments with start dates through Sept. 30 must be requested in GoArmyEd before Sept. 24. This is necessary due to year-end close-out and fiscal year “change-over”. Attempts to enroll in courses after Sept. 24 will not be approved. This policy applies to all Soldiers applying in the GoArmyEd system for LOI schools, not EArmyU schools. This does not apply to schools where tuition is reimbursable. For more information, call 767-8331.

\$4500 tuition available for Soldiers

All active duty members have \$4500 per fiscal year for education. This entitlement is separate from the Montgomery GI Bill benefits available from the Veteran’s Administration. Details are available at 1:30 p.m., Monday – Friday, during a one-hour brief at the education center, room 223. The **www.goarmyed.com** Web site provides 24-hours, 7-days-a-week virtual access for Soldiers. Our education counselors are available to assist in educational goal setting and advising.

Central Texas College offers scholarships

The Central Texas College Foundation office has more than 100 scholarships available to students. These scholarships are not just for students at the Central Campus, but many of these scholarships are available for students attending one of Central Texas College's World Wide Campus.

Filling out a single application will give students the opportunity to be considered for all of their available scholarships. For more information, call the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center at 767-8331.

Civilian Education System briefs held Aug. 13, 14

Fort Stewart and Hunter Army Airfield will hold Civilian Education System briefings 1:30-3:30 p.m. Aug. 13 at Hunter Post Theater, and 9 a.m. to 11 p.m., Aug 14 at Club Stewart to discuss the importance of leader development within the workforce. The discussion will include a Department of the Army representative who will help explain the new DA civilian education initiative. Civilian employees are encouraged to attend. For more information contact the Directorate of Human Resources, work force development at 767-2309.

College term dates announced

Central Texas College, Aug. 13 - Oct. 6, 767-2070 at Stewart, 315-4090 at Hunter. *Columbia College*, now - Aug. 13 - Oct. 6, 767-5336 at Stewart, 352-8635 at Hunter. *Embry Riddle*, Aug. 6 - Oct. 7, 767-3930 at Stewart, 352-5252 at Hunter. *Savannah Tech*, now - Sept. 19, 408-2430 at Stewart. *Webster University*, Aug. 13 - Oct. 11.

Savannah Tech offers child care

Child care is available at the Airport Road Hinesville campus. Please contact Natasha Brown at 408-3024 ext 6026 for more details.

Take advantage of education programs

Soldiers and civilians can take advantage of the HOPE grant and tuition with education opportunities available at the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center and local institutions. Available programs include Website Technician Certificate in only two courses; Child Care Manager Certificate with only five courses; and Medical Transcription Certificate with only eight courses. For more information contact the education center at 408-2430.

College testing offered

Columbia College is now providing our college testing services. More than 70 CLEPs and DSSTs are computer based for immediate results. CLEP/DSST testing is free to Soldiers and costs vary from \$80 to \$100 per test for civilians. Columbia will also be the test proctor for all college distance learning tests. There is a \$20 fee for registration. Call 767-7558 for more information.

Computerized exams available

Hundreds of different certification exams, including many information technology, emergency medical technician, paramedic, IBM exams, etc. are now being administered on computer in room 165, at the education center. Because the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center has become an official Pearson Virtual User Environment center, many Soldiers and Family members have access to a broader variety of tests. For more information, call the test administrator, at 767-9569, or, visit www.pearsonVUE.com.

Central Texas College offers scholarships

The Central Texas College Foundation office has more than 100 scholarships available to students. These scholarships are not just for students at the Central Campus, but many of these scholarships are available for students attending one of Central Texas College's World Wide Campus. Filling out a single application will give students the opportunity to be considered for all of their available scholarships. The application process is simple. Visit **www.ctcd.scholarships.nelnet.net**, and set up an account.

ESL classes taught

English as a second language classes are available. The beginning courses are offered 8-10 a.m., each Monday and Wednesday. Intermediate courses are offered 10 a.m. to noon every Monday and Wednesday, and 8 a.m. to noon Tuesday and Thursday, building 100, room 227. Please call 368-7322 for more information.

Troops, Spouses to Teachers rep visits Stewart

Bill Kirkland, program manager for the Georgia Troops to Teachers Program and Georgia Spouses to Teachers Program will be available at 11 a.m., Aug. 22. He will answer questions regarding the Georgia Troops to Teachers Program. It provides eligible servicemembers up to \$10,000 for becoming public school teachers. Under the Spouses to Teachers Programs, eligible military spouses may be reimbursed for the cost of state required certification tests up to a total of \$600. Call 1-800-745-0709 or 767-8331 for more information.

Severely injured Soldier/spouse scholarships

Certain schools are offering Scholarships and reduced tuition for Soldiers, severely injured, and their Family members. For more information, send e-mail to: Scholarships@voled.doded.mil.

Get free test prep software

The Victory Sports Group of NFL football players is sponsoring SAT, ACT test prep software for military Families. There will be a small shipping charge for delivery. For more information, email eKnowledge Support at support@eKnowledge.com, call

951-256-4076.

Have an educational coffee break

Join the Sgt. 1st Class Paul R. Smith Education Center at 9:30, Aug. 7, for an educational coffee. A professional counselor will discuss setting and achieving educational goals, and discussing available programs and funding options for active duty, Family members and Department of the Army civilians. They are available to help you maximize your potential as you are affected by Army mobility requirements. Join us at Building 100.

For more information, call 767-8331.

Teen Summer Transportation Schedule

All riders must be registered and have completed hold harmless agreements filed with Child Youth Services. youth centers seven days a week from 2 to 8 p.m. or at either CYS registration office Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Registration is free.

Parents may register their children for this service any evening at the Fort Stewart or Hunter Army Airfield. For more information call Stewart 767-4491, Hunter 315-6075.

Fort Stewart			
Running through August 5 no service on federal holidays			
	Mon-Sat	Mon-Sun	Mon-Sun
Bryan Village Youth Center	11am	3pm	6pm
Liberty Woods (Corner of Wild Fern & Liberty Woods)	11:05am	3:05pm	6:05pm
Liberty Woods (corner of Jasmine Ave & Liberty Woods)	11:10am	3:10pm	6:10pm
GMH Southern Oaks Community Center	11:20am	3:20pm	6:20pm
Bryan Village South (Corner of Argle & Rogers)	11:25am	3:25pm	6:25pm
Isenhower Homes (Corner of Liberty & Hanrich)	11:35am	3:35pm	6:35pm
School Age Services	11:40am	3:40pm	6:40pm
Coastal Ridge (Corner of Victory & Audie Murphy Way)	11:45am	3:45pm	6:45pm
Marne Lanes	11:50am	3:50pm	6:50pm
Corkan Family Recreation Area	12pm	4pm	7pm

Hunter Army Airfield			
Running through August 31 no service on federal holidays			
	Mon-Sat	Sun Only	Mon-Sun
GMH Community Center (Gannam Ave in Wilson Acres)	11:30am	3:15 pm	6:30pm
GMH Community Center (Calloway Ave in New Savannah)	11:15am	3:00 pm	6:45pm
Hunter Fitness Center	11:45am	3:30 pm	6:15pm
Youth Center, Bldg 1289 (Haley Ave)	12:00pm	3:45 pm	6:00pm

Foundation of faith provides strength

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd BCT Public Affairs

There's strong, and then there is Army strong. And while being a Soldier may make one stronger than the average 'Joe', there are times when Soldiers may need to rely on something a little stronger than themselves. In such instances the power of faith and belief in a higher power plays an important role in maintaining positive morale. While Soldiers may not be able to visibly see this higher power, they can see people around the base that can help serve as a means to facilitate communication. "The role of the chaplain is to either perform or provide religious support to the Soldier," said Chaplain (Capt.) Michael Oliver, 2nd Battalion 3 Brigade Troops Battalion chaplain. Such support is offered weekly at Forward Operating Base Kalsu through a variety of programs. They include worship services, bible studies and prayer groups. The chapel works hard to provide worship opportunities to as many Soldiers as possible, said Chaplain (Maj.) Jay Hearn, 2nd Brigade Combat Team brigade chaplain. Currently chaplains perform weekly Catholic worship services, three different types of protestant services - Contemporary, Liturgical and Gospel - and a Seven Day Adventist. Although there are no Muslim or Jewish chaplains on Kalsu, religious services are still offered to these groups. Hearn said plans are underway for a Jewish chaplain to visit and

conduct worship. "What we do have (instead of chaplains) is approved distinctive faith group leaders authorized and endorsed by the division chaplain office," Hearn said. Faith group leaders help other Soldiers of the same faith practice their belief. The chaplains help by providing any materials these leaders need, including locations to worship. "Even if I am not part of their religion, I can provide them (Soldiers) the tools they need to make sure their morale remains high by being able to exercise their freedom of religion," Oliver said. According to the Constitution, all U.S. citizens are given the right to free exercise of religion. Being able to maintain this right, even when deployed overseas, is a strong boost to a Soldier's morale. "Morale, especially in a combat environment is everything," Oliver said. "If they (Soldiers) have a good morale they can focus on the success of the mission." Besides services, chaplains help keep morale in a number of ways. Oliver said he gives daily devotions at brigade briefs to inspire leaders and their Soldiers. Additionally he said much of what he does to help Soldiers remain upbeat is through a ministry of presence. I go to Soldiers' living areas and check up on them, see how they are doing and feeling, he said. In doing so, the chaplain can help Soldiers discuss issues in a confidential manner without fear to their reputation or career. Such care reinforces many of the Army val-

ues and shows Soldiers that their chain of command cares about their well being. Active engagements with chaplains can also help maintain a strong faith, an essential key to maintaining a positive spirit, even in times of difficulty, both chaplains agreed. "From a theological perspective, there is comfort in knowing God is always with you," he said. Thus, chaplains work hard to ensure Soldiers can have ample opportunities to practice whatever faith they are. "Like physical training, if you don't work out, your muscle strength suffers. When we don't take opportunities to practice our faith, it weakens," Hearn said. "Most Soldiers, unless mission dependant, are given opportunities to worship Sunday." Evening bible studies and lunchtime Catholic services are offered to those who can't break away Sundays to worship and strengthen their spiritual muscles. "Soldiers, as well as their Families back home, should make faith a priority," Hearn said. "It helps buffer the bad things around us."



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
Chap. (Maj.) Jay Hearn, 2nd BCT chaplain, preaches at the contemporary Protestant service.

Even in Iraq, some days you just gotta dance

Pfc. Monica K. Smith
3rd CAB Public Affairs

BAGHDAD - The lights are hazy in the small room where Soldiers practice their routine. Sgt. Marcus Dugar, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combat Aviation Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, watches the dancers before stopping the music and giving instructions. "It's really fast, you have to be ready for it," he says as he reviews the moves with three Soldiers. Dugar then goes through the motions while speaking the words to the song. "It goes, 'I told the storm to pass,' it's really fast. Ok, let's do it again." These Soldiers have found an unconventional outlet for their spiritual convictions and

talents in performing arts by creating the group "Praising and Miming is what we do", a mime and praise dance ministry at Camp Striker. Despite varying work hours, differing schedules and other obligations, these Soldiers make the organization a priority during their deployment. They create time where there is no time, to gather together twice a week to practice at the 875th Engineer Battalion building next to 3rd CAB's headquarters building. "I think it's the same reason why everyone else decides to praise dance, mime or sing in church," said Dugar. "(This is just) another way for us to express how we really feel to the Lord. Visually, is the best way to show people." Praise dance is conveying the message of a

song in dance form while mime incorporates more drama and acting into the performance. "It's an interpretation. It doesn't have to be to a song; it can be to a poem or a passage of scripture," said Dugar. "But, you have to listen to the words, the song or the poem and you have to physically express what that person is saying. We take the songs artists make and we listen to them and we think, 'Ok, we can do something with that.'" Dugar first had the vision to begin a mime/praise dance group here during the "Gospel Explosion" in June at the North Morale, Welfare, and Recreation center. A mime group from the chapel at Camp Liberty performed a mime piece which triggered Dugar's desire to minister in the same likeness at Camp Striker. "Personally, when I saw the (performers) mime at the gospel explosion, it was something I wanted to do here," said Dugar. "Previously, in the rear, it was something I already did at my church, and I didn't know if they did it here or not."

who were interested in mime but were unsure how to begin. The group began with four women who praise danced and two men who were interested in mime. They came together as a praise dance/mime team and began to advertise. It took a visual example to bring together and give purpose to, what was before, a group of talented, independent, individuals. Dugar was able to perform during a service one Sunday and demonstrate the power of the combination of praise dance and mime. Now the group has more than 12 regular members who want to mime or praise dance. "We're developing teams of maybe three or four, depending on each other's time schedules, which will allow them to coordinate a time and songs to practice," said Dugar. "Then when we get together on Mondays and Thursdays for practice (so that) we can make more progress and schedule times for them to minister." The members bring a range of experience to the group, some coming with years of prior military experience in dancing and others who simply wanted to praise God. Dugar spent his time prior to joining the Army as a dancer for the San Antonio Spurs basketball team and also danced with R&B singer Usher in 2001. Others like Dempsey, though not as professional, have been dancing since the age of 5, and some like Capt. Clark Simon, HSC, 603rd ASB, only danced for his Family as a child. "I haven't [danced] since elementary school," said Simon. "I have never done something like this. I've always wanted to; they do it at my church, but I never had the time."



Pfc. Monica K. Smith
Sgt. Marcus Dugar, HHC, CAB, assists Sgt. 1st Class Alma Caudle, HHC, 2nd BSTB, in the art of applying mime makeup. Dugar and Caudle are members of a mime and praise dance ministry at Camp Striker, Baghdad.

Dugar was not the only person who was inspired by the performance at the "Gospel Explosion." Spc. Joseph Dempsey, member of Headquarters and Support Company, 603rd Aviation Support Battalion, also wanted to be a part of a ministry such as the one he witnessed. "I didn't even come (to Iraq) expecting to do anything serious," said Dempsey. "I saw [the mime performance] at the 'Gospel Explosion' and I wanted to start. Within a week there were so many people who wanted to be a part of the ministry." There were, in fact, many members of the 7 p.m. service at Camp Striker's chapel who were interested in beginning a mime/praise dance team. Dugar met Sgt. 1st Class Alma Caudle with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 10th Mountain Division, who led the praise dance, which is purposeful dancing to worship music, and he introduced her to mime. She, in turn, introduced Dugar to other members

The group gathers together people of all talent ranges and allows them to minister in a way they feel called to minister, said Dugar. Upcoming plans include the group performing at Camp Liberty, in addition to performing frequently at services at the chapel. However, some members find satisfaction in knowing they are ministering to people in their immediate area and hope they have a lasting impact on the people they perform for. "I just hope it touches hearts," said Simon. "I hope they can identify with what we're doing. When you're trying to reach people you have to identify with them in order to add to their perspective on life."

2nd BCT cooks offer Soldiers food for thought

Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
2nd Bct., 3rd Inf. Div.

FOB KALSU, Iraq - He came to Iraq with a mission and a plan. "My goal is to make sure you guys gain 20 pounds." It might be an awkward mission statement, but when you consider who is stating these words, it is a good recipe. Allen Graves, the Forward Operating Base Kalsu dining facility manager, has made it his goal to ensure that every Soldier who enters his facility gets the best possible meal every time they eat. "Food is the basic thing that the body needs in order to function," he said. "It affects your metabolism, your energy

level, your mental well-being. Your body needs to eat." As a retired Soldier, Graves said he has an appreciation for what today's troops are doing here in Iraq. Such appreciation has made him come back to serve with them. The only difference is instead of serving behind a rifle, it is now behind a serving line. While retired from the military, Graves said he still relies on much of what he learned in the Army. His twenty years as a food service specialist in the Army has given him an understanding of the importance of good meals. "What you eat and what is available affects peoples morale. Food does affect morale." To keep morale strong, Graves said he

ensures the dining facility offers a diverse menu at each of their four meals - breakfast, lunch, dinner and midnight chow. "There is something out there for everyone, be it fast food or comfort food that people are used to eating in the states," he said. "There are enough choices that everyone is going to find something they like to eat." Both Sgt. Lisa Young, Headquarters and Headquarters supply, and Spc. Matthew Beason, topographical analyst, agreed that the variety of choices makes meals even more enjoyable. "I like that they always have hamburgers, sandwiches and pasta," Beason said. "It's also good when they have theme nights."



Sgt. Kevin Stabinsky
A Soldier eyes a piece of pie on the desert line. Comfort foods like cakes, pies, ice cream and cookies add a taste of home to the Kalsu dining facility.

Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield Briefs

Sign up for flag football

Registration for the intramural flag football league is open, 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., at the sports office. The event is open to active duty military, Family members who are 18 years and older, retired military, and Department of the Army civilians. Games begin Aug. 6. For more information, call Michael Hughes at 315-4160 at Hunter, or Randy Walker 767-8238 at Stewart.

Delegates needed for AFAP

Have you ever said, "If the Army would just ask me how to fix this I could tell them." AFAP gives Soldiers, retirees, DA civilians, and their Families the opportunity to let Army leadership know what is working and what is not, and their ideas about what will fix it. You can be a part of this great process! Delegates are needed. The Fort Stewart - Hunter Army Airfield Conference is scheduled for Sept. 11-12. For more information, call 767-1257.

Earn your stripes

We are now six weeks into the Kellogg's Earn Your Stripes Promotion and Stewart - Hunter youth have fallen to second place.

But we are not far behind! Have your child, ages 2-14 log on to www.frostedflakes.com/active/login.html and help take back first place and win \$20,000 for our kids.

All they need to do is log their points and select Stewart for all their physical activity since June. Keep up the good work Fort Stewart and Hunter! We know you can do it. For more information, call 767-5113/5126.

Stewart

Review the Army's OCS opportunities

The next Department of the Army Officer Candidate School selection board is Sept. 17-21. The local OCS board will be Aug. 14 in building 253, room 1050. The deadline for packet submission to the Mower Personnel Processing Center, bldg 208, is Aug. 7. For more information, call 767-8894.

Register to 'Walk to Iraq and Back'

The Walk to Iraq and Back continues. Teams submit walked miles monthly toward the new goal of 50,000 miles. Registration and forms are available at the Family Readiness Center. The next installation group walk is slated for October. For more information, contact Amy Lambert at 320-5400.

Join the Foreign-born Spouse Support Group

Are you a foreign born spouse and interested in networking with other spouses from your cultural background? Meet other foreign born spouses who are familiar with the area and with Army life and have the opportunity to network and participate in activities such as games and coffee club. Contact ACS at 767-5058/5059 for dates and times and to sign up.

PWOC holds 'Bridal Shop' program

The Protestant Women of the Chapel invite all women to the fall kick-off program entitled "Prepare for the Bridegroom." Join us at the "Bridal Shop" where you'll find everything to prepare for your wedding. The event is 9:30 a.m. to noon, Aug. 15 at Marne Chapel. Free child care for children up to 6 years who are registered at CYS. For more information call Misty Raybon at 271-2557.

Back-to-School Block Party slated

Teens can enjoy their last summer fling while grillin' out and listening to a DJ play the latest hits! Enjoy food, dancing, water activities, games and more from 6 - 9 p.m., Friday at the Bryan Village Youth Center Parking Lot. The party is free and open to teens. For more information, call 767-4491.

Enjoy Italian brunch at Club Stewart

Enjoy an Italian cuisine, 10:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Aug. 5 at Club Stewart. Menu will feature a pasta station, lasagna, Italian sausage with peppers & onions, chicken parmesan, Italian vegetables, roasted potatoes, chocolate fountain and wine tasting table complete with assorted deserts. Cost is \$11.95 per person, children ages 5-10 eat at half price and under 5 eat free! Bring in a church bulletin and receive \$1 off each meal cost. For more information, call 368-2212.

See what the Shop of the Marne offers

Come check out the Shop of the Marne as it re-opens today. Don't forget, we will also be open 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 4. Shop of the Marne is located in Building 25 off McNeely Road.

Spouses' Club hosts membership drive

The Enlisted Spouses' Club and the Officers' Spouses' Club will host a Membership Drive, Aug. 16 from 6-8 p.m. at Club Stewart. Attendees will have a chance to join their respective club, check out local vendors and organizations and enjoy some refreshments. Vendor spots are still available. For more information or to sign up to be a vendor, please contact Melanie at 214-257-0564.

Learn seven habits of effective Families

Army Community Services invite volunteers to learn "The 7 Habits of Effective Military Families," 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Aug. 27 at the Family Readiness Center. The course is an excellent volunteer professional development program. Child care is available for the training. Spaces are limited.

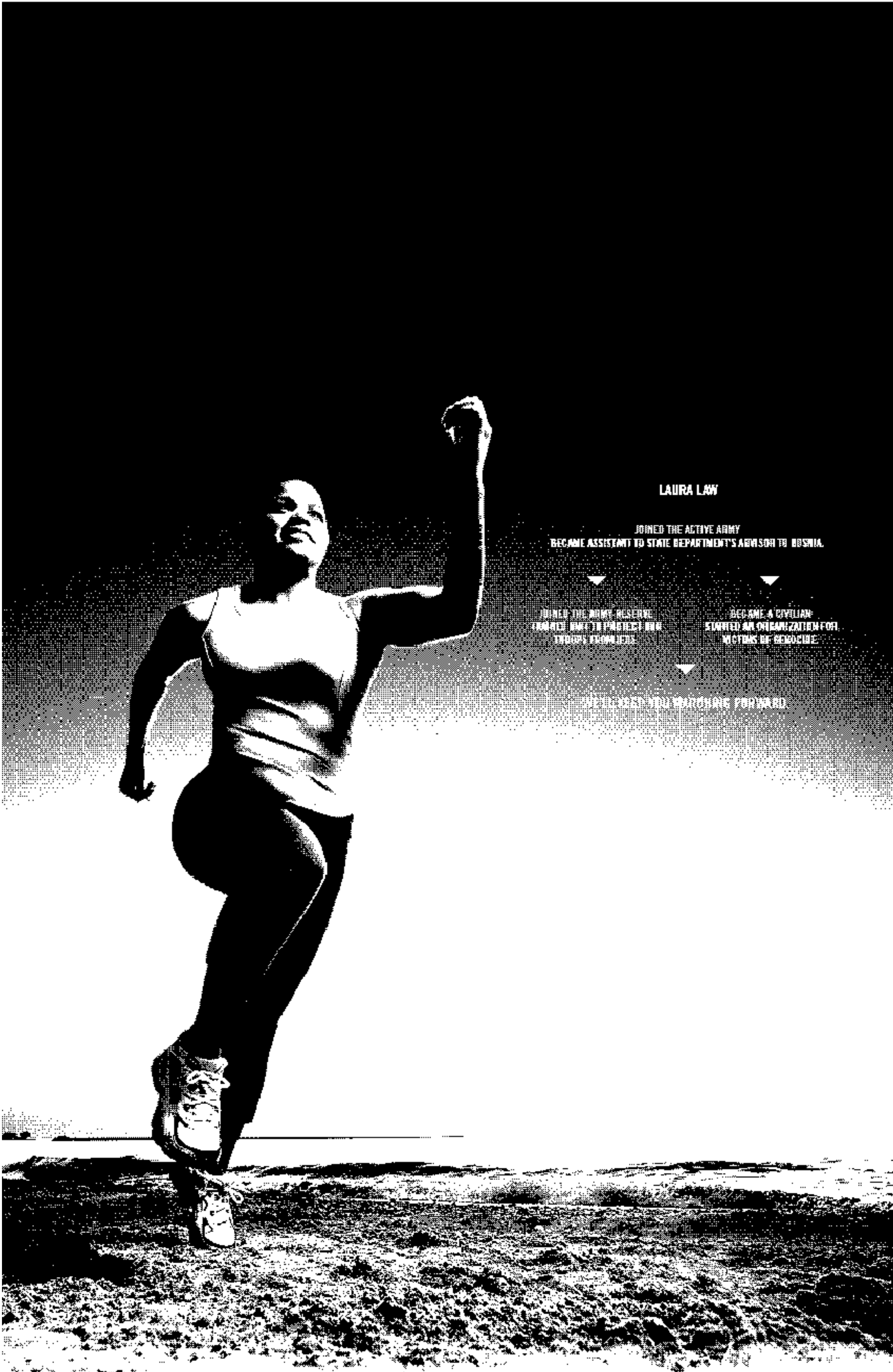
Teen Night at Club Stewart

Teen night moves to Rockets at Club Stewart 7-11 p.m., Aug. 11, 18 and 25. During these events, Rockets is closed to Soldiers and open to Family members, ages 13-18 with military ID. Only one guest is allowed per card holder. All participants will be checked for ID and wrist banded. The club features a pool table, foosball and big screen TV in the Headlights room. Extra facility staff is available and conduct codes are strictly enforced. The cover charge is \$5. For more information, call 767-8715.

Hunter

Terrible twos workshop offered

Parents will receive help understanding toddler development and will be provided with helpful tips for handling temper tantrums, potty training, and discipline strategies 1:30 - 3:30 p.m., Aug. 20 at ACS.



LAURA LAW

JOINED THE ACTIVE ARMY
BECAME ASSISTANT TO STATE DEPARTMENT'S ADVISOR TO BOSNIA

JOINED THE ARMY RESERVE
EARNED NAME TO PROTECT OUR
TROOPS ABROAD

BECAME A CIVILIAN
STARTED AN ORGANIZATION FOR
VICTIMS OF GENOCIDE

AND HERE YOU ARE, RUNNING FORWARD

ARMY RESERVE

When Laura Law joined the Army, she wasn't sure where her career would take her. But from day one, her leadership skills, courage and determination helped her to forge new paths and succeed. By joining the Army Reserve after Active Duty, you'll continue serving your country while sharpening your skills and mastering new ones. Plus, you'll get a bonus, extra paycheck and the chance to train near home. Learn more about CPT Laura Law and how you can build a future filled with possibilities. Visit goarmyreserve.com/laura or call 800-USA-ARMY.

